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EARLIER SELECTION OF SEED CORN LOOK AHEAD AND SEE THE RESULT

**Good Preservation of Seed Corn
Increases Productiveness Many
Bushels Per Acre.**

By C. P. Hartley

Great progress has been made in recent years in a more general adoption of fall selection instead of spring selection of seed corn, but there is room for still greater progress.

Nearly all farmers should select their seed corn three to four weeks earlier than they do. In the South seed corn should be selected and dried during August, in the North early in September, and no prudent corn farmer anywhere in the United States will allow October 15 to pass without having sufficient seed for at least one year's planting stored where it cannot be injured by unfavorable or unexpected weather conditions. Where a seed patch is not maintained and seed must be selected from the general field it should be selected before the corn is cut and shocked. Where corn is husked from the standing stalk the seed should be selected several weeks before the corn is dry enough to husk and crib.

It is doubtful whether the governor of each of the corn producing states could issue a more valuable proclamation each year than one proclaiming a suitable week for all farmers of the state to gather and dry seed corn.

As an excuse for not having good seed it is customary to state that the season was exceptional. Such seasons will continue to occur, and the only way to escape loss is by being prepared each year for an exceptional year. Last year was a very adverse season in some of the corn states; consequently this past spring it was necessary to import seed corn into those sections. Never the less well acclimated and unquestionably higher yielding seed could have been selected last September from fields in those same states. This statement is made with full knowledge of the facts, because at that time such seed was selected and dried in those very sections that was practically perfect and germinated 100 per cent.

Having personally assisted in the gathering and drying of seed corn in those sections in September, the writer knows that quantities of seed could have been saved at that time from the same and many other fields. Unfortunately, however, most farmers postponed the selection until freezing weather, with

the consequence that the seed will not germinate well. It is not the season so much as the man.

There are usually a few days between the time the corn stops growing and the coming of frosts, especially if an acclimated corn is grown. We would have better corn yields and make better progress in originating and acclimating higher yielding strains of corn for different localities if seed corn were as readily killed by frost as sweet potato vines. If seed corn would not stand so much abuse and if it were killed outright by the first frost farmers would dry their seed corn before they dig their potatoes, and the next year's crop would be better.

The blame can not be justly shifted upon the season. It is the farmer who fails to do his part. Corn has been transported from a land of perpetual summer, where the returning wet season permitted the seed to germinate without having endured winter conditions. It has been introduced into northern localities where the winters are severe. It has shown a remarkable ability to adapt itself to short summers, but is dependent upon man to care for its seed during the winter. Without this care the corn crop would not perpetuate itself in the United States. Our first duty in giving the crop opportunity to yield well is early selection and preservation of the seed.

To make certain of always obtaining the greater productiveness of adapted varieties it is necessary to save sufficient seed for two or three years' planting. In localities where extreme weather conditions may make the corn crop an entire failure, this practice is of the utmost importance. It is plainly impossible to acclimate and adapt varieties if all seed is destroyed occasionally, making new importations of seed necessary.

There are occasionally instances in which imported seed produces better than home-grown seed. Such cases are experienced especially in the Southern states, where dry summers permit early-maturing northern-grown varieties to escape the summer drought. For this reason northern-grown seed is preferred on some sections. A better practice would be to select and acclimate an early maturing variety. It would then escape the summer droughts and by becoming acclimated and adapted would produce better than imported seed.

The shortage of seed corn in many sections of the country in the spring of 1912 furnishes a good

example of what has happened and is likely to happen again. Seed corn receives more and more attention.

The loss from planting neglected seed corn reduces or destroys the profit on the corn crop of each individual farmer and in the aggregate is an annual loss to the country of many millions of dollars.

By the early selection of sufficient seed corn for several years' planting and its proper preservation these immense and oft-recurring losses can be prevented.

A NEW OPPORTUNITY.

A reading of the quotations of the markets and as a matter of actual experience the people of this country found that the price of beef is on the increase, and in the past month the wholesale prices of beef are said to have been higher than at any time in the past thirty years.

This condition, it is held is one which offers a new and great opportunity to the South, which has not been to a great extent engaging in the cattle business. The West has had almost a monopoly, and yet conditions in the South are such as to promise to make the industry a most profitable one. Farmers who have tried it have found it to pay.

Here is an editorial from the Southern Ruralist which gives a clear view of the matter. It says:

"During the past month the wholesale prices of beef have reached the highest point for 30 years. The present generation has never seen the cost of most of the necessities of life so high as today. Neither war nor famine is responsible for this fact. The general condition involved has been often discussed in these columns. At present we propose to confine ourselves to a few thoughts relative to this meat proposition.

"It is true that the price of beef is arbitrarily fixed by the great packing houses which control its dressing and distribution. It is even more important, however, that the law of supply and demand remains the chief factor in variations in price. Were this not true the packers would fix a permanently high and invariable price.

"It is to the present condition of this source of supply that we desire to call attention.

"The shipments of live cattle into Chicago during the past 90 days have been 50 per cent short of the normal shipments for this time of year. Spring and summer shipments are chiefly of corn-fed animals.

"The high price of corn is the direct cause for shortage of market cattle and consequent high prices

**The Matter of Renting by the Year
and of Leasing a Farm is the
Question.**

Mrs. J. C. West, of Utica, Mississippi, has the following in a recent number of the Southern Ruralist:

"There will always be some who do not own homes, so why not rent or lease to the best advantage? I see all around us farms that are not bringing their landlords money enough to pay the taxes and keep up the place; the land is badly washed and lots of it worn out and turned out to grow pine saplings.

"I do not believe in the one-year renter, he thinks only of this year and says, 'What is the use of building up this place, I'll be somewhere else another year.'

"When I was a girl my father leased a place for five years, and the place had gone down so badly he had to pay only one bale of cotton for the first three years and two each year for the last two. It was an old ante-bellum homestead and to us children a most desolate-looking place, but father went to work, repaired the house, drained the lowlands and put peas as a fertilizer crop on the poorest land.

"The first year he made five bales of cotton and 100 bushels of corn. The fifth year, 17 bales of cotton, 350 bushels of corn and 300 gallons of syrup, and lots of peas and potatoes; then the landlord said his place was worth 3 bales of cotton, so father agreed to give it and leased the place for five more years and went on making good crops. At the end of the tenth year he moved and the place went back to the one-year renter. In three years the place had gone down so the fourth year it couldn't be rented at all.

"When father lived on this place he hauled out the fertilizer and grew fine melons with it and fine turnips and cleaned up the old apple orchard and soon had plenty of apples planted, also peach trees and we reaped the harvest and had all the enjoyment of real land owners. Had my father been the one-year renter he would not have improved this place. Then leasing seems to give the family better social advantages. Just think of the family that moves every year; they hardly have time to get acquainted with their neighbors, and the children have hardly gotten over that cramped feeling that strangers have at school. All of us know how we felt the first day at school, so it is each time with the child among strangers."

Mrs. Samuel Edwards, the wife of a Mountain Air, New Mexico, farmer, killed a bobcat with her feet. She discovered the animal in her farm yard where her little baby was at play, and, unarmed, took a running jump and landed squarely on the beast's back, breaking its spine.

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